



FAMILY AND PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

In a 2015 Federal Emergency Management Agency survey, almost 60 percent of Americans said they wouldn't be ready in the event of an emergency. Flooding, tornadoes, snowstorms and severe thunderstorms are just a few of the most common disasters Indiana faces. Knowing how to communicate during a crisis is a vital step in being prepared before one of these events.

COMMUNICATION PLAN COMPONENTS

Communicating during an emergency situation can be difficult. Communication can be cut off completely or be severely limited. Consider the following information when making a household emergency communication plan:

- Understand how each disaster could impact forms of communication.
- Designate an out-of-state contact person.
- Choose a place for household members to meet if separated during a disaster.
- Make sure every household member understands who to call and where to meet.
- Regularly practice the communication plan.
- Create a copy of emergency contact numbers for every household member and disaster kit.
- Share information about emergency preparation so everyone can be ready.

SUGGESTED EMERGENCY CONTACTS

With access to current technology, many individuals no longer have phone numbers memorized. Consider compiling a paper list including the following phone numbers, to access in the event that those saved in a phone are unavailable.

- Loved ones
- Neighbors
- Out-of-state contact
- Doctor
- Veterinarian
- Poison Control
- Police Department, Fire Department, Ambulance Service
- Utility Companies
- Insurance Companies

Here are some tips to use when communicating during a disaster:

Stay on the line: Don't hang up if a busy signal is heard. Stay on the line until a dial tone is heard, then place the call as normal.

Try cell phones and landlines: If a loved one can't be reached by a cell phone, try using a landline.

Try Texting: If a cell tower is damaged and not functioning properly, text messages may get through when a call cannot.

Internet options: If possible, communicating through email or social networking sites may prove effective. Also, try registering through the Red Cross "Safe and Well" program which allows family members to update their status, and search for updates from loved ones.

